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COVER: Timber Home. See *The Timber Home*, p. 10. Photo: Pete Lawrence Photography

HOME Front



Photo: Pete Lawrence Photography

Ah yes. Is there anything more comforting on a frosty winter's night than the thought of home? Winter is a season to celebrate and embrace the true meaning of "home." A cold wind howling outside our window is a metaphor for the way our home becomes a refuge from what can often be a hectic and trying world. "Home" is our place, our space.

This issue of HOME is filled with ideas to make that space even more of your own. Discover how you can increase the "good vibes" through the principles of feng shui (p. 36), and by following basic guidelines for interior decorating (p. 31). Or, you can have someone do it for you. Discover how interior designers can be well worth the investment to add value to your life and home (p. 50).

For many Saskatoon families, Christmas is a special time for decoration (p. 8). Even if you're reading this edition of HOME after Christmas, this article is for you! We give you hints not only on how to select themes and decorations, but also how to organize your decorations when the festive season is over.

We love to feature Saskatoon homes with a unique flair. Step inside a log home (p. 10), then drop into a home that features a rotating wall (p. 48)! For the latest and best in technology, head downstairs to the mechanical room of the Shaw home (p. 17) in the first of three features.

Love to shop? We asked some of Saskatoon's respected decorators for their recommendations (p. 44). Want to add a

major statement to your home? How about a new banister or railing (p. 15)?

You might enjoy sliding down your new banister, but beware of someone slipping down your front steps. Our regular legal feature answers the question about winter steps and lawsuits (p. 7). Another of our favorite regular features reminds you that winter can still be fun for gardeners (p. 57).

Home Reflections takes us back 100 years to the Boom of 1912 – thanks to a wonderful suggestion by HOME readers Moira and Mark Willems. The Willems live in the King George area, in a home built in 1912, and thought it would be "awesome" to celebrate the boom's centennial. We love to get suggestions such as these from you, our readers! Please feel welcome to send an email to info@saskatoon-home.ca.

Finally, to our readers, advertisers and everyone who has supported us over the past year, thank you for making HOME a success! Every issue of HOME is written by a team of writers who, like you, live and work in our dynamic and growing city. At the same time, we at HOME never forget those who are not as fortunate. During this traditional Season of Lights, may we all take the time to reflect on the importance of our home, large or small, simple or elegant, and what it means to us. To all of you, may your home be filled with warmth and happiness every day of the year!

AMANDA SOULODRE
PUBLISHER

Got suggestions? Comments? Questions?
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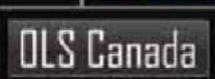
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Homeowners and the Law



Slippery Steps

It's the dead of winter and someone slips on the stairs leading up to your house. Are you liable?

Saskatoon lawyer Clayton Barry, with the firm of

McDougall Gauley LLP, says this is a complex issue because many factors come into play such as:

- Has the owner/renter/occupier taken reasonable precautions to ensure the stairs and pathways are safe?

- Is the area well lit?
- If you have invited someone to your home, did you notify or warn them of a potential hazard?
- If Granny is coming, did you greet her at the driveway and help her safely to the house?
- If you know there is a dripping downspout that freezes over at night, did you take steps to address the potential problem area?

Barry says that while there is no legislation in Saskatchewan regarding occupier's liability, there is a City of Saskatoon bylaw that obligates property owners to clear the sidewalks in front of their homes. While this bylaw does not apply to the front steps, the question can be asked, "Are you providing reasonable care and safe access to your house?"

Barry offers some quick tips:

Know your property – as an owner if you are aware that there is a potentially dangerous walking area you

should fix it (salting, putting gravel down, removing tripping hazards) and:

1. Take reasonable care in maintaining your property;
2. Consider extra liability insurance – just in case;
3. Know the conditions of the entrance to your property and who is coming to your property, especially in the winter. You are morally responsible, if nothing else, to take care that no one gets hurt; and
4. Even if you are a tenant you still have responsibilities, and even if it's a canvasser or meter reader, you may still have obligations that no one slips, or slides, away. (H)

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Deck the Halls – Please!

Organizing Your Christmas Décor



Home-based business owner Barbara Shawcross of Realistic Redesign knows what it is like around Christmas and New Year's – chaotic, sometimes stressful, and sometimes overwhelming, especially if company is involved.

If you have decided this is the year to get your home ready for what happens both before and after Christmas, Shawcross says "You are right on track."

Utilizing as much of existing décor as possible, take a deep breath and:

1. Decide on a holiday theme. Let what you have already be the inspiration for colours and décor. Maybe it is snowflakes and icicles, a toy shop, musical instruments, or something passed down through the generations.

When it comes to hanging a new picture, maybe it depicts a Christmas message other than the traditional fireplace and stockings. Think creatively inside and out and keep in mind your house and yard should look good in the daytime and at night.

2. Create a wish list of what you would like your house and yard to look like. Avoid impulse buying and stick to your theme. Be inspired, but not carried away – everything doesn't have to be on theme so don't go overboard.

3. Shop around with your theme in mind. You might find something neat in an unusual place. Money is saved by



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sticking to the wish list, so commit to the theme and the overall plan.

- 4. Once you buy something new for this year's plan, add it to an inventory list describing what will be put away after New Year's.** If you take inventory of what you own for decorations and seasonal items and vet these items yearly, you will be ahead of the game. You can label boxes one of five, two of five... because you tend to forget. Pack things together in the storage area and put a big Christmas label on the side. Realistic Redesign can help or you can purge these items and prioritize what you cannot live without.

When it comes to Christmas entertaining, we put a lot of pressure on ourselves. By doing pre-planning and by decorating inside and out at

the beginning of December, you are already ahead of schedule. This gets you in the mood and, as a bonus, eliminates pre-party anxiety.

Depending on the size of that party, invest a bit more in good paper plates. Use clear plastic knives and forks. Napkins can be your specialty item. Invest in real wine and beer glasses and pack them away until next Christmas.

Realistic Redesign also helps with post-Christmas sales shopping. Barbara advises, "While you are out doing your Christmas shopping, pre-shop the deals – then wait until the items are 50 per cent off after the holidays. Pre-selection helps you when you are out on Boxing Day, and these well-thought-out buys can create a brand new theme idea for next Christmas."

When it comes to New Year's party ideas Shawcross says stay with your holiday



decorations. Add a few inexpensive decorations around where guests are eating to define the dining area. Encouraging (and sometimes ensuring) your New Year's guests get home safely must be a priority. Saskatoon has a great free bus service as one option; pre-arranging a ride home for guests is always a good idea.

When the holiday season is over, donate used decorations to Community

Living or arrange to send to Adopt a Family, or a similar group. Shawcross says don't get in a rush to take down your decorations, but at the same time aim for everything down by Valentine's Day – maybe you need to re-decorate for that event or call Barbara for inspiration! 

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THE TIMBER HOME

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There is something to be said for taking the long road to the things you want in life. Cory and Leslie Borolien had a dream of living in a modern, yet rustic home on a nice slice of land outside of the city. They had lived in Saskatoon, but Cory Borolien grew up on an acreage; the couple knew it would be a great place to enjoy life and raise their two children. After a long decade of preparation, they've finally realized their idea, building their own highly unique timber home. 🏡



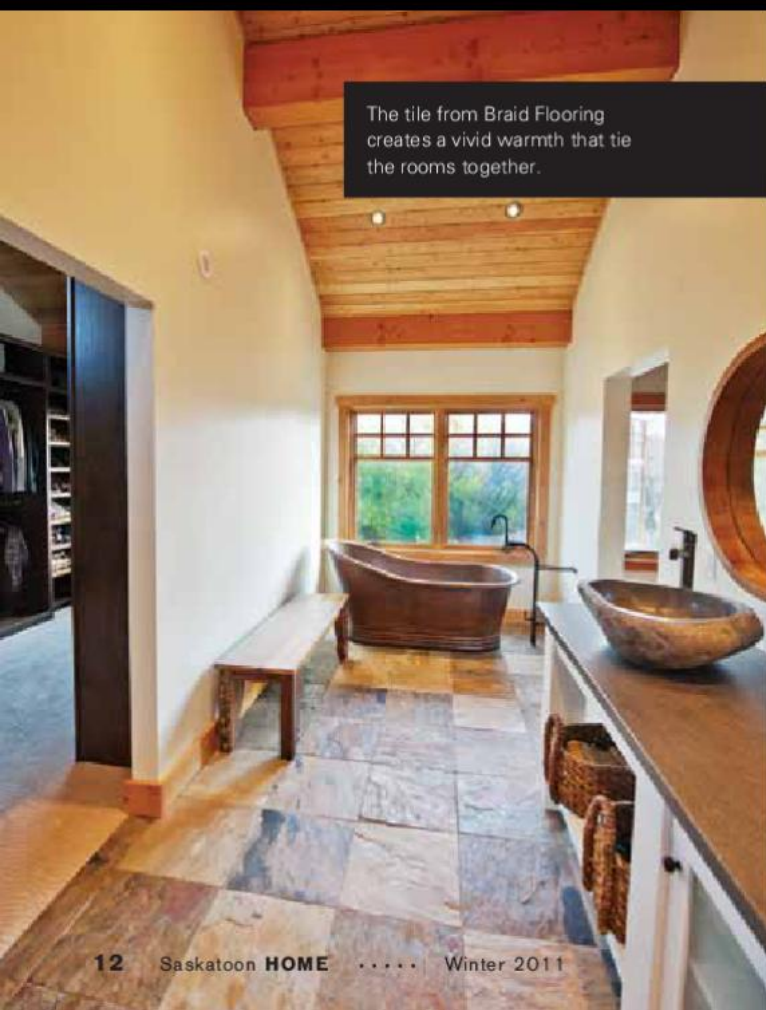
Craig Silliphant



Pete Lawrence Photography



Indoors, you'll find all the rustic comfort and grandeur of a ski chalet. Just add hot cocoa!



The tile from Braid Flooring creates a vivid warmth that tie the rooms together.



You can almost smell the bread baking in this dream kitchen that is both modern and rural at the same time.





"Our lifestyle is very relaxed," explains Cory Borolien, "so we knew we wanted log or timber. We like the look of that kind of home because it's very welcoming and relaxed; warm tones and a natural, rustic feel. It reflects our personality. We leaned toward the timber frame because you can add more design features easier." Even with the grandness of the big entryway and high ceilings, the house still feels warm and inviting.

It took the couple more than ten years to get to a place where they could buy the land and construct the house, but that gave them time to hone the idea.

"Leslie's got timber and log magazines going back ten years," laughs Borolien.

"Because we've wanted to build this house for such a long time, she's spent many years collecting pictures and ideas into a scrapbook. She had a pretty good sense of what she wanted. I only cared about my gym, my office, and my garage. The rest of it, I just said yes to whatever she liked. [The design] went really smooth because we knew exactly what we wanted pretty much all the way through."

The design is an excellent melding of the modern amenities of life with rustic country living, and of course, the timber itself. Measuring in at about 5000 square feet, plus a finished basement, with 29-foot ceilings in the entrance, the house has been referred to by some as 'a ski chalet,' which was the look the Boroliens had in mind. 

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"It's the opposite of a typical modern style where you have lots of hard lines, and whites and grays," says Borolien.

There are some amazing accents throughout the house, from beautiful frosted glass doors with the room names stenciled on them, to actual feature trees that are load bearing support posts, white cedar with the bark pressure-blasted off of them.

The rest of the timber in the house is Douglas fir, constructed by interlocking the timber much like a Lego set, with tightly fit joinery and wooden pegs.

"Around here you don't have much construction like that," says Borolien "[We met another person who had] built a timber frame home in Saskatoon; actually not a full house, just an addition or something like that. He had to jump through so many hoops because it was the first timber frame house built in Saskatoon. Because it's a different kind of house, using timber instead of engineered wood, none of the engineers, zoning, or planning guys know what it's all about. That's how unique it is."

The Borolien house went up pretty quickly, and eventually the family was able to move in to start their new life on the acreage. Once they were able to take a deep breath and enjoy the fruits of their labours, they knew they had done the right thing.

"[When it was finished] we were just exhausted from the planning and the little details," says Borolien. "But it was great once we were in and all the workers were gone. It's pretty much exactly what we wanted and we were very happy with that." H



Picturesque pressure washed trees act as both an indoor pastoral architectural feature and a load bearing post.

Custom Touches Banisters and Railings



Stainless Steel – McLean House

Tex Klassen – Photo by David Renee Photography



Designed Glass Insert

Castle Designer Glass – Photo by Jessica Storozuk



Hardwood Banister

Concept Railings – Photo by Jessica Storozuk



Clear Glass Insert

Castle Designer Glass – Photo by Jessica Storozuk

Whether you live in a new housing development, a heritage house or a cozy bungalow, you have banisters and railings somewhere in your home. Not just limited to staircases,

they often delineate spaces between living areas and line hallways. Generally overlooked and ignored, banisters and railings are considered functional and utilitarian, but they can

actually add to the aesthetic appearance of your home if given a little attention.

With many homes, banisters are one of the first things that guests see when they arrive. Stairs often

lead directly off the home entrance, and in the case of split-level houses, visitors can sometimes feel assaulted by the web of railings, banisters and spindles greeting them as they

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enter. Most homeowners keep the banisters and railings that came with the sale of house and don't give much thought to how their appearance affects the overall atmosphere of the home. However, spending a relatively small amount of attention and money on these important safety features can make a huge difference in the look and feel of your home. Introducing unexpected products and unique textures into the railing work creates spaces of art in the home that traditionally perform solely a functional purpose.

Introducing new mediums such as steel and glass or changing the design of the inserts is a refreshing change from the typical vertical posts adorning most homes.

Local home improvement stores have a few options for homeowners who want to break away from the norm. A set of handrails, balusters and posts in unpainted oak or hemlock can cost around \$500 for a small stairwell, or you could choose wrought iron for about half the price. There are a few different style options, and a coat of paint can help upgrade the

look. However, with mass-produced products there is little room for homeowners to express their creativity. As well, even what appear to be simple projects can be time-consuming and frustrating, leaving many do-it-yourselfers wishing they had left the work to the experts.

Investigating locally owned and operated businesses where the product is produced according to customer specifications allows you the opportunity to collaborate in the design process and feel like a part

of the end result. Assisting in choosing and designing stylized products for your banisters and railings will add the customized touches that make a memorable house and will likely add to the investment value of the property. Even introducing small improvements, like adding copper balusters or etched glass inserts to already existing banisters, can make small spaces feel more airy or add an unexpected pop of color to a neutral room. 

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Company	Product	Options	Creative Advantages	New Trends	Price Range
Castle Designer Glass 840 47th St E 306.477.0098 castledesignerglass.com	Glass. Hand-formed glass mould is designed in collaboration with client. Made in heat-formed kiln then sent for tempering which makes glass five times more durable than regular glass. The tempered glass is very safe and will not shatter if broken.	Options include clear, plain tempered glass or custom design a textured, stylized look. Paint frosting can be used to add color. Versatile product can be used indoors or outdoors.	Client is able to personally design a product that reflects them and has strong visual appeal.	Many clients gravitate towards simplistic, contemporary style, with a small amount of texture added for interest and to conceal dust or fingerprints.	Typical insert ranges from \$85-125 plus install, depending on size, medium and amount of texture and color required.
Tex Klassen 610A 51st St E Saskatoon, SK 306.934.7600 www.texklassen.com	Steel, aluminum and copper. Regular steel can be painted or powder coated for extra durability while stainless steel and copper can be lacquered to decrease smudges.	An array of metals can be chosen and a range of patterns can be applied by hand for a one-of-a-kind finish. Generally used indoors but can be adapted for outdoor use.	Each metal has unique advantages, and homeowners can choose to mix wood railings with metal inserts or vice versa.	Patterns such as waves and sunbursts are becoming popular, as well as clients creating their own design. New color options for powder coating are available.	Price is decided on a case-by-case basis, based on choices such as type of metal; angled or straight banisters; continuous or sectional railings; vertical or horizontal risers; and amount of labour required.
Concept Railings Limited 4-401 Pakwa Place Saskatoon, SK 306.664.0555 www.greatstairs.com	Hardwood to match any house, including ash, oak, elm, maple and cherry. Can produce one-of-a-kind patterns according to client specifications.	Variety of shapes available and any design can be etched into the wood. Customer can also choose paint color and finish. Intended for indoor use only.	Product is not mass produced so client specifications are kept on file and style will be kept consistent with future orders.	Most customers choose simple styles, but those who desire creative impact choose unique etchings that are subtle but eye catching.	This product is intended for indoor use only, and the starting point for a typical small stairwell with wall-bracketed rail is about \$2,500 with cost increasing depending on detail.

We invite you to explore the expertise of local retailers when deciding to replace or upgrade your banisters and railings. You will be surprised at the amount of personal detail you

can add to the product and how introducing subtle design changes can make a big difference in the creative impact of your house.

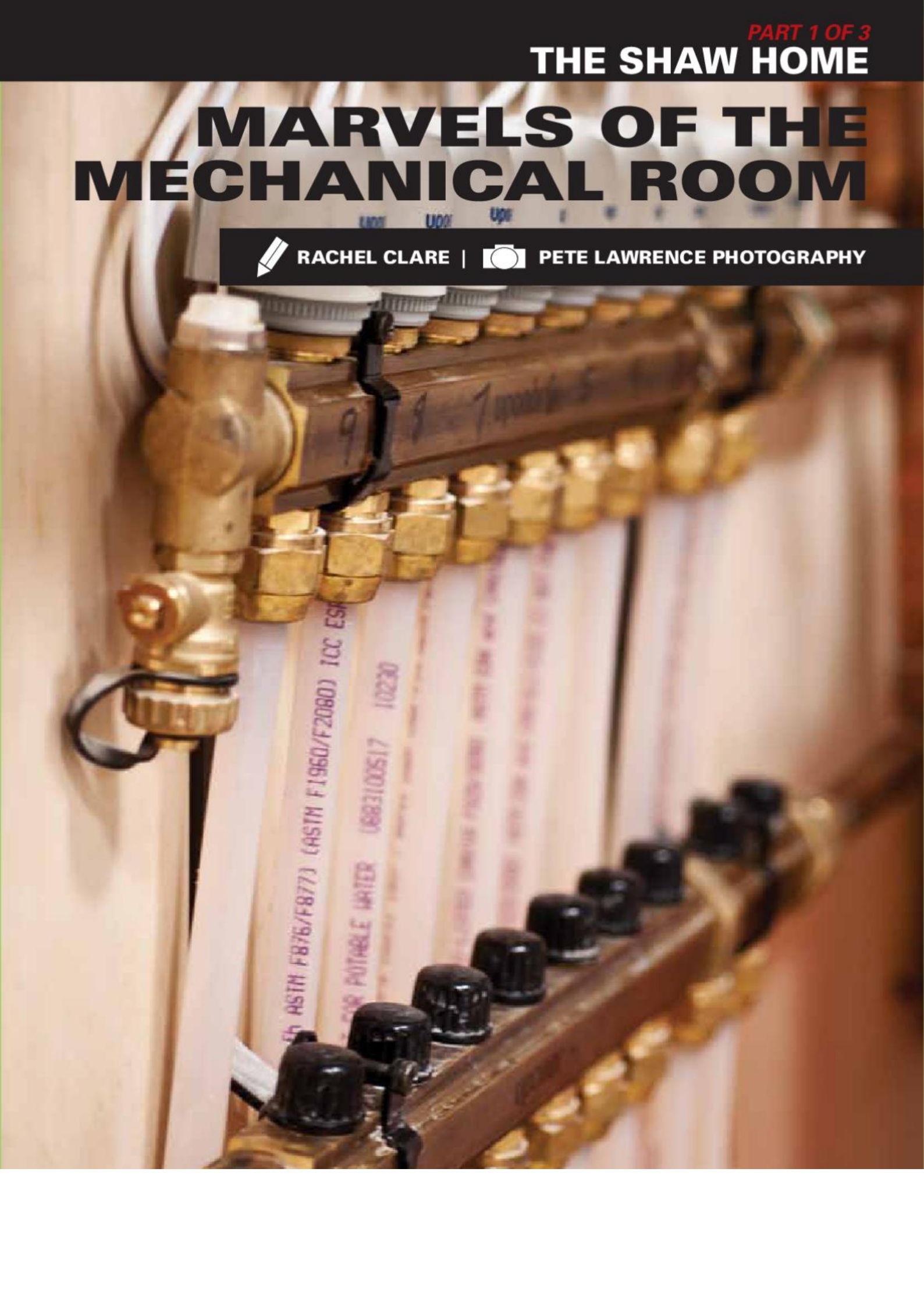
MARVELS OF THE MECHANICAL ROOM



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PETE LAWRENCE PHOTOGRAPHY





Arnie and Linda Shaw, well-known business owners of Centennial Plumbing, Heating and Electrical, are also well-known in Saskatoon through their extensive community and charitable involvement. With the innovative design and building process of their recently finished home, they can now add "leaders in environmentally friendly home modernization" to their impressive list of accomplishments. From the foundation up, every part of their home was built with thoughtfulness, balancing the aspiration to use eco-friendly building materials and the increasing need for energy efficient appliances with the latest in technological conveniences and

an uncompromising desire for a stylish and welcoming home. While there are many rooms of the house that are worthy of attention, the mechanical room is a marvel of design that transforms an already above-average house into an inspiration for other homeowners.

The mechanical room in the basement of the Shaw home is proof that function can be fashionable. The overall objective of the mechanical room was to utilize quality, eco-friendly equipment in a logical manner that would provide maximum efficiency and comfort for the home. The staff of Centennial, along with other Saskatoon companies that are innovators in the housing industry, such as SuRe

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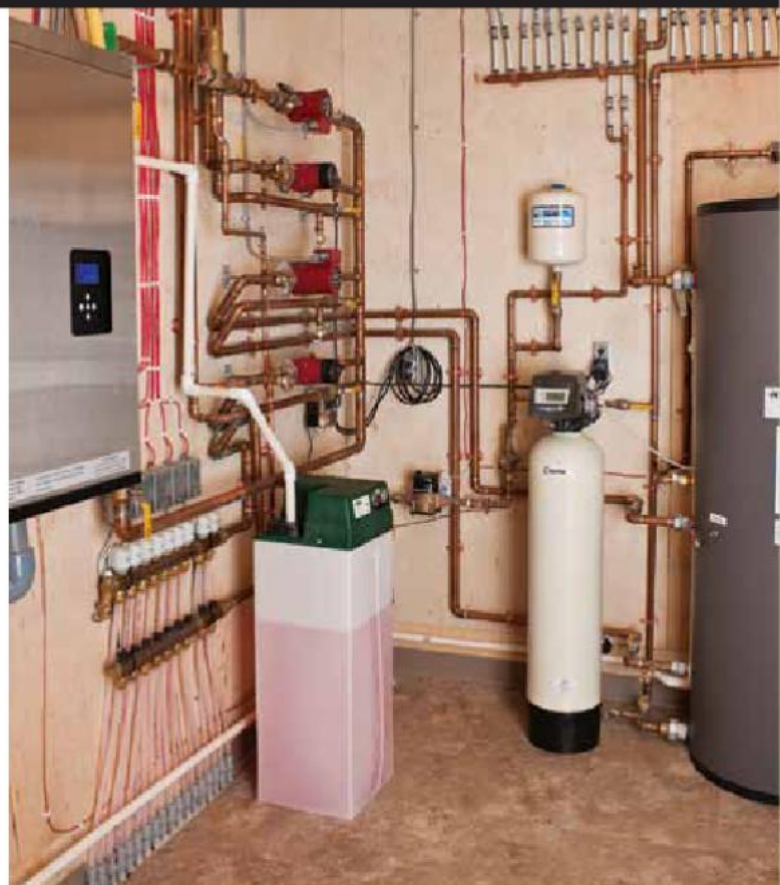
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InnoVations, worked tirelessly to ensure the home met the highest standards. The bonus is that the hub of the house is surprisingly attractive.

One of the key components of the mechanical room is the fully modulating boiler. The hi-velocity heating and cooling system delivers even temperatures in every room of the house through continuous air flow, and also controls the ventilation and humidification. The boiler system provides heat under the natural stone tile covering the main floor, and in-floor heat to the basement and garage. Temperature changes in the home are continuously monitored, and output is adjusted accordingly so that even the garage floor stays toasty warm in the icy

depths of winter. The Energy Smart Variable Frequency Drive Motor within the heating and cooling system ensures continuous air flow provides the upper level with consistent temperatures, saving money on utilities. An unusual feature of the Shaw home is the fact that the water heater, which is part of the high efficiency water system, is also run by the fully modulating boiler.

A second important component of the mechanical room is the Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV). This energy-efficient air quality system filters fresh outside air and draws it into the home. As the exhaust air passes through, it warms the incoming air in the winter and, conversely, cools the incoming air in the



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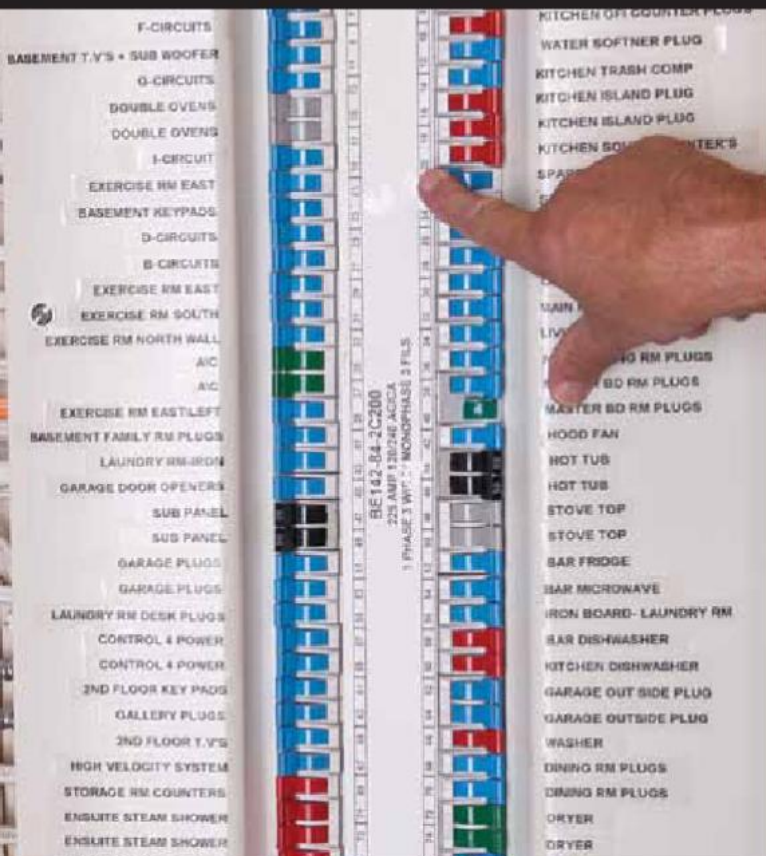
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summer. The HRV performs the highly important function of ensuring that fresh, clean air is constantly flowing, since it is not escaping through other areas. Unlike most homes where air constantly

escapes through small gaps in the walls and ceilings, the Shaw Home is nearly air-tight. This is due to another energy efficient, environmentally friendly technological marvel concealed from sight. Spray foam insulation is hidden behind both the walls and ceiling, which creates a home sealed as tightly as an envelope. The product's formulation includes recycled

The house can even send a text message or email if something goes wrong.

plastic and provides a gap-free seal that resists fungal growth, even under extreme weather conditions. Maximum efficiency is achieved as little to no heat is lost through walls or ceilings.

The mechanical room ensures the Shaw family does not have to sacrifice comfort in their eco-friendly house. SuRe InnoVations was responsible for a seamless integration of electrical and electronic components that make the house look and sound luxurious. Each component of the complex electronic system controlling the television, music,

temperature and lights links back to the mechanical room. Touch keypads located in each room control the automated lights throughout the home. Lights can be switched on and off based on areas, such as kitchen and living room. They can even be changed based on themes, such as evening and daytime, effortlessly creating the appropriate mood in the home.

The touch keypads also control the electronics throughout the house. The central audio-visual system controls multiple televisions, computers and surround sound, but all the unsightly speaker and wire components are housed tidily in the mechanical room. This flexible

system works like a central vacuum. Access to computers, cable boxes and DVD players is available in every room, allowing the homeowners to continue watching their favourite shows or listening to satellite radio as they move from room to room. No longer does the end of a television show need to be missed because a family member has to rush to the kitchen to finish making supper!

The centralized audio-visual rack in the mechanical room is the control panel for all the lighting, electrical and security features in the house. The electricians did a superb job of making sure the electrical panels and lighting circuits were clearly



Homeowner Arnie Shaw



labeled and arranged for ease of maintenance and troubleshooting. One wall is dedicated to a network of clearly labeled and easily accessed light switches. Their functionality contributes to the aesthetically pleasing arrangements of what could be a tangled, incoherent web of cables and components.

Tom Redhead with SuRe InnoVations described the unique characteristics that help to create an intelligent home. The concept of home automation guarantees that homeowners can easily navigate the electrical and electronic aspects of the house; more importantly, enhanced and interactive security features increase the

safety of the homeowners as well as their sense of home security when traveling. Tied into the same keypads that control the lighting and electronics is the advanced and interactive security system – another marvel of the Shaw Home.

The security system actively communicates with the home and its owners. For example, if a security breach is registered, lights may start flashing inside or outside, depending on the choices of the homeowner. The house can even send a text message or email if something goes wrong in the house, whether it is an attempted break-in or if the house is in danger of flooding. Flood and temperature

sensors are installed in the home, so homeowners do not have to be perpetually fearful that their pipes might freeze or their home might flood while on vacation. With the interactive early warning system, homeowners can deal with problems before they become crises, even from miles away.

In most homes, the mechanical room is the ugliest room in the house, hidden behind closed doors and rarely entered. It tends to be a space of confusion and frustration for homeowners, and is upgraded only when important appliances break down and a budget-busting crisis happens. Even when the room is functioning normally it is usually not a cost-efficient room due to archaic components and neglect in maintenance. However, if

you desire a home that is warmer, safer, easier on the eyes and ears, as well as on the environment, consider upgrading components of your mechanical room. Representatives from Centennial and SuRe InnoVations are a few of the knowledgeable experts in Saskatoon able to provide an array of ecologically friendly options that will make home ownership more enjoyable. Choosing to invest in your home will pay off in the long-term with reduced energy bills and prevention of unforeseen home disasters. 

Life's better by design.

Design Week celebrates Saskatchewan designers

What is it that made you feel so peaceful in a garden, or so sophisticated sitting in a restaurant, or proud to show off your new cellphone? More often than not, and in its own essential but often subtle way, it is the principles and individual genius of design. At its essence, applied design makes our lives more comfortable and more enjoyable, such as the way you are able to peruse this edition of HOME – the layout of the pages, size of the text, and so on. It also plays a key role in addressing a multitude of challenges – from density in an urban population to a growing number of cases of repetitive stress injuries, such as back pain caused by lengthy periods at the computer.

Formed by a collection of provincial design associations in 1983, the Design Council of Saskatchewan represents

professional designers in the fields of architecture, community planning, engineering, graphic design, interior design and landscape architecture. Their annual Design Week is filled with events open to the general public, to enjoy, to learn and to interact.

This year's Design Week, from November 14-18 featured exhibits, a speaker series and a film series, with most offering free admission to the general public. Those who took advantage of the offerings heard from the architects of the new Remail Art Gallery of Saskatchewan, how to best manage a key aspect of the river along the Meewasin Trail, heritage conservation, sustainability, and emerging trends in design.

For the first time at Design Week, a competition was held called Design

a Light, proudly sponsored by Saskatoon HOME magazine. Congratulations to all the winners:

Artistic Creation

(Best executed design and supportive concept)

A-5 by Ryan Janzen

Environmental Creation

(Best use of recycled content, energy efficient light source, or both, while maintaining the design and supportive concept)

Bird Pecking Out Girls

Brain by Leanne DeLong

People's Choice

Walhung by

Rebecca Stewart

Grand Prize Winner

A-5 by Ryan Janzen

The week culminated in the annual Premier's Design Awards. The awards recognize all of those in the design community across a broad base of categories.

Listed below are the winners of the Premier's Award of Excellence in each category:

ARCHITECTURE

HDH Architects

Meadow Lake Courthouse, Meadow Lake

COMMUNITY PLANNING

City of Saskatoon

Public Spaces, Activity and Urban Form Strategic Framework

GRAPHIC DESIGN

ScotDance Canada 2010, Logo

Ryan Schmidt, Sparrowhaus Studio Inc.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Studio FIAT, Saskatoon

Stantec Architecture Ltd.

COLLABORATIVE

River Landing Pedestrian

Linkage, Saskatoon

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

For a complete list of all those recognized, we invite you to go to www.saskatoon-home.ca. 



Artistic Creation & Grand Prize Winner – A-5 by Ryan Janzen

Photo by Jessica Storozuk



Environmental Creation – Bird Pecking Out Girls Brain by Leanne DeLong

Photo by Leanne DeLong



People's Choice – Walhung by Rebecca Stewart

Photo by Jessica Storozuk



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HOME Reflections

Appreciating where you live means knowing its history. HOME Reflections is a regular feature revealing interesting facts about our city from bygone days.

Looking west across the railyards into Riversdale in 1912.

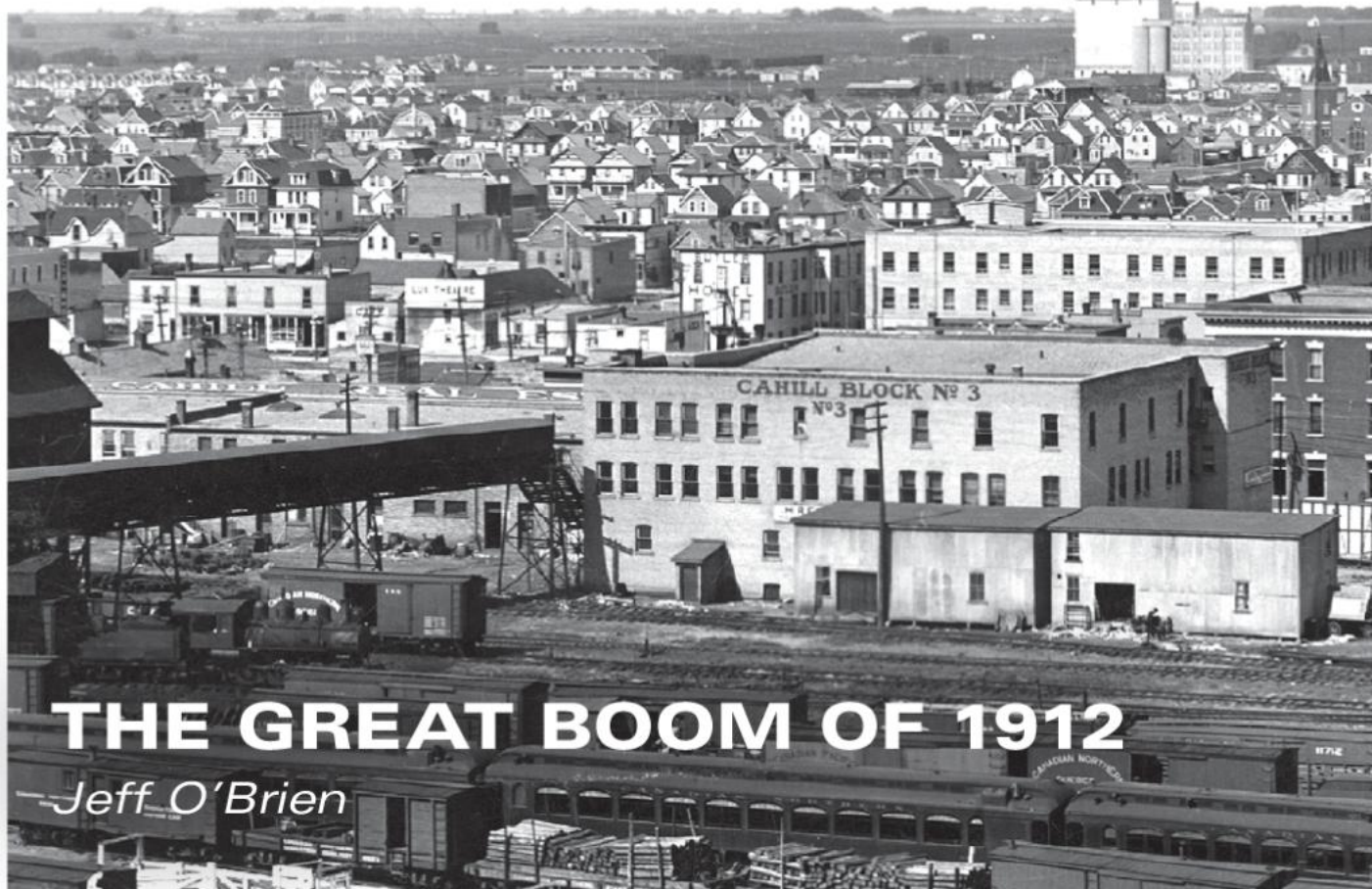


Photo LH 3816 courtesy of the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Saskatoon's great, pre-First World War real estate boom. In three short years, Saskatoon was transformed from a sleepy little place at a non-descript bend of the South Saskatchewan River to the Wonder City of the Prairies. Those years, and 1912 in particular, built the city we know today.

In the years from 1909-1912, Saskatoon experienced its biggest boom since the last volcano erupted in these parts, not quite two billion years ago. How big was this boom? In 1901 there were 113 people living here; by 1903 the population had increased to 550 and only three years later to 4,500. But in 1912 there were a whopping 28,000 people living in

Saskatoon. That's big. That year, the height of the boom, the Saskatoon city directory had 267 separate listings under the heading "Real Estate", which works out to about one real estate agent for every 100 Saskatoonians. By comparison, today there's only one realtor for every 450 people. The 1912 directory also listed 37 lawyers, 34 restaurants and

eateries, 27 physicians, 23 laundries, 15 barbers, 14 pool halls and a like number of bars, three wholesale liquor outlets, eight professional photographers, seven music teachers and two massage therapists. Saskatoon – the merest of flyspecks just a few years before – had come of age. 



First Avenue south of 21st Street in 1903, looking like a set from an old movie.

Photo LH 163 courtesy of the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

It was the prairie land rush that drove the Great Boom. Homesteaders were coming from all across Canada, the United States, Europe and elsewhere to make their

homes on free land in the "last, best, west". These were the Laurier Years, when the federal government sent its agents all over the world to convince settlers to come

take a chance on Canada. A ten dollar filing fee and a willingness to work were all you needed to get 160 acres of prime farm land. The American west had long

since filled up – land in the Dakotas was selling for \$50 an acre – and from 1901-1911, more than 400,000 people packed up their belongings and moved to



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Saskatchewan to take a shot at winning the prairie gamble.

1912 was the Golden Year for Saskatoon. Farm lands were being subdivided and put on the market as far as three miles outside the city limits, which were themselves set very generously, at Preston Avenue in the east, Avenue W in the west, and 38th Street to the north and south where Circle Drive is now. Even for a population of almost 30,000 that was a lot of room, but people dreamed big in those days. Prices were fantastic and people were getting rich in the land business. Sites in high demand could change hands several times in a week, and there are even stories of properties bought, sold and re-sold in the line-up at the Land Titles Office. One speculator is said to have earned \$500 in profit every day for 499 days buying and selling land along Third Avenue.

The civic administration was hard pressed to keep up with the demand for services. You could barely step outside to pick up a newspaper without tripping over either a real estate man or a city crew busily putting down sewer and water pipes, stringing electrical connections or paving roads and laying sidewalks. In every measure of growth you can think of, 1912 set records not to be exceeded until the late 1950s. Eleven miles of water main were put in that summer. Ten miles of sanitary sewer – fully one-third of the city's total inventory – were laid. Twenty miles of concrete sidewalk were poured that year, almost doubling the city's total, and the downtown streets were paved as far north as 23rd Street.

This was also the year Saskatoon built its first transit system – the half-million-dollar Saskatoon Municipal Railway, which opened on New Year's Day, 1913. Also in 1912, the city built a fancy new power station on the riverbank at the foot of Avenue A, about where the Farmer's Market is now. It replaced a smaller station just upriver that had been completed only four years before, and had almost immediately proved completely inadequate to handle the unexpected growth of what they were starting to call "the Wonder City". 

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Where boom met bust: the Three Sisters in the lower right, at the corner of Taylor and York, well outside of Saskatoon's sparsely-settled fringe even in 1927 when this photo was shot. The rows of neat squares are the basements of unfinished houses, abandoned by their builders when the economy collapsed. They stood open to the sky until the area was finally built up in the 1950s and 1960s.

City Archives photo

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Saskatoon was changing so fast that people were afraid to stand in one place for too long, for fear that someone would put up a building around them. Streets that had once looked like a set out of a movie western were suddenly transformed, with elegant, solidly built, brick and stone office buildings, hotels, department stores, warehouses, flour mills, movie theatres (eight of them by 1913, with seating for 4,200 people), schools, churches and apartment blocks going up everywhere. Third Avenue north of 20th Street was one big construction site in 1912. A great many of those buildings survive to this day, helping the downtown retain much of its historic flavour.

And then there were the houses. Big ones, little ones, shacks and mansions; construction was

everywhere. New arrivals lived in tent cities while their houses were being built, and Saskatoon rang with the sound of hammers and saws from morning until night as crews worked furiously to accommodate all the people pouring in. Where once there had been only long grass and prairie dogs, now there was a constant din of noise and activity. The makers of ear plugs probably made out like bandits. Of the 1,783 building permits issued in Saskatoon that year, 1,232 were for modern (i.e., with indoor plumbing) houses, more than double the number built in 1911, and better than any other year until 1958. If you want a comparison you only have to look at 2010, another boom year for house construction in Saskatoon, when 1,117 single family houses were built here.



21st Street, looking east from First Avenue in 1912. A far cry from 1903.

City Archives photo

In 1912, Saskatoon was the "Chicago of the North" and it couldn't go anywhere but up. In the City that Temperance built, otherwise sober people, drunk on the "hysterical and wildly unreasoning optimism" of this rolling, unstoppable juggernaut, were predicting a population of 400,000 in a province of two million by 1940. So when the boom finally broke, early in 1913, it broke with a bang.

Construction stopped. The value of building permits issued by the city – nearly \$8 million in 1912 – plummeted to \$20,000 in 1915. Property owners on the fringes, who had bought for the purpose of making an easy buck, found that they could neither sell their land nor afford to pay the taxes on it, with the result that by 1923 the City of Saskatoon was the unhappy owner of nearly 13,000 non-tax-revenue-generating lots. A further 25,000 subdivided

lots outside city limits were mostly returned to acreage. The dream of 1912 was done.

As a symbol of the boom and its bust, we need go no further than the corner of York Avenue and Taylor Street, where the "Three Sisters", a trio (duo now, Sister No. 3 having been torn down to make way for a fire hall) of 2 ½-storey, 1912 homes, stand amidst a sea of 1950s bungalows. Built as a kind of a teaser by a developer hoping to make his property seem more attractive to buyers, they stood for decades alone and lonely, far beyond the outskirts of Saskatoon, accompanied by rows of empty basements, excavated and poured to become the foundations of a new subdivision on the city's fringe, then simply abandoned when the money ran out. 

Thank you to readers Moira and Mark Willems for this story suggestion.

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Decorating Dos and Don'ts



Sometimes the rooms of your home don't feel quite right. There's something out of place, something doesn't quite match, or something doesn't belong. Or maybe the room feels stale and uninspired, and you're looking to start it over again. You might know what you want, but you don't know how to get there. If you're finding yourself with these troubles, you just might need the help of an interior decorator.

An interior decorator can help you find what you want

out of the rooms of your home, or help you correct the nagging problems you can't put your finger on. The key to interior decoration is making the rooms reflect you. An interior decorator can do that while keeping your living spaces tasteful and aesthetically pleasing.

No matter the room, scale is the most common issue people need help to understand, says Chantelle Butterfield, owner and operator of Funktional Space. "When you're looking

at a picture above a couch, what size should it be? Most people do it too small. They don't have enough art, enough presence. Or they add too much – so it's eliminating some things."

Finding one's vision for a room can be difficult. Diane Weber of Diane Weber Interiors explains how to determine the look people are trying to achieve. "Most of the time," she says, "just looking around their living space and asking what their favourite pieces are gives me

good insight to what their tastes are and the direction we should go."

For kitchen design, it helps if clients have an idea what they want, says Tennille Burlack, interior design consultant with Appl Custom Woodworks. "If they bring in a magazine photo, or go on our website and see what they like or don't like – that kind of gives me a direction from that point." 



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COMMON MYTHS ABOUT INTERIOR DECORATING

Chantelle Butterfield, owner and operator of Funktional Space, dispels the following common myths about interior decorating:

1. You can never have too much stuff on the floor and walls – “Each space needs empty or negative space, to honour what you do have.”
2. Don't purchase some things on a whim – “If you don't make that purchase, you will be sad if it's not there tomorrow. It will make you think of a good time, space, or feeling. If you love it, it will fit in your life and space.”
3. You can't have something unique in a room because it doesn't go with the room – “You can, because that unique item means something to the owner. It can also be a conversation piece, or it can be something that sparks a feeling or emotion for the owner.”
4. You can't break the rules – “The rules of interior decorating can be as solid as a rock, or open to interpretation. I believe that learning the rules is the first step towards freely breaking them when necessary.”
5. Interior decorating is not easy and fun – “Remember there are pros that do this everyday, so they can tell you in an hour or two what you need, where to find it, and where to place it.”



Decorating Dos

For some, redecorating the home can seem a daunting task. For those who still like the do-it-yourself approach, there are a few good principles to adhere to, regardless of the desired end result.

One good idea is to always have a plan in mind. Diane Weber offers the following common steps: "First, determine your budget. Next, determine what you're going to need to add to the room to make it what you want as far as furnishings, accents, etc. What is the function of the room, and what will it be used for? Think about colours and textures."

Another good idea is for homeowners to leave some of the big things for later. While homeowners may be tempted to get

that messy painting done before moving the furniture in, Chantelle Butterfield suggests deciding on all the other options first. "The problem with painting first is that it's almost impossible to match the walls to a fabric. There are only a few couches, upholstered chairs, comforters, curtains, that you will find and like, but there are thousands of paint colours. If you can't find a paint that goes, you can always have it custom matched."

Tennille Burlack advises clients to really consider what they want out of their rooms. "Think about what you like about your space, and what you don't like about your space. Keep an idea if a renovation in one room will escalate into another room." Doing so will help keep projects on time and running smoothly. 



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INTERIOR DECORATING TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Diane Weber of Diane Weber Interiors offers the following terms and concepts for anyone wanting to understand a little bit more about interior decorating:

COLOUR HUES

"Colour hues are what a colour can do for a room. I always suggest to clients to go get a print or picture that you love; it will always tell what your tastes and colours are. Once you start from that picture, everything else will balance off of it."

MUTED TONES

"Muted tones are colours that don't have any brightness to them. I always suggest muted tones when using a darker colour. They appear deeper and serve as a great backdrop for everything in the room – it just gives a nice matte finish. But some colours can be tricky because of their undertones. It can be a problem when people don't understand or can't visually see these undertones when picking out colours, because it's too late once the paint is on the wall."

HARMONY

"Harmony is when you walk into a room and know that everything flows, from the way the furniture is arranged to how all the colours work together. Sometimes the homeowner knows something is wrong with the room, but doesn't know what. It is usually something that is affecting the harmony like a misplaced furnishing, pictures hung too high or too low, or colours that don't suit the furnishings."





Decorating Don'ts

Just as there are a few ways to start off a retooling of an old room, there are a few things people can easily get wrong. To keep the decorating process enjoyable, keep in mind the following strategies to mitigate or sidestep some common problems that face homeowners.

A big problem is trying to do too much at once. Says Diane Weber, "This can be daunting. Their entire space is filled with furniture, making it very difficult to manoeuvre." Her advice to get around this is simple. "I always suggest picking one room and focus on that room only. It gives the client a sense of control and helps them to not get overwhelmed."

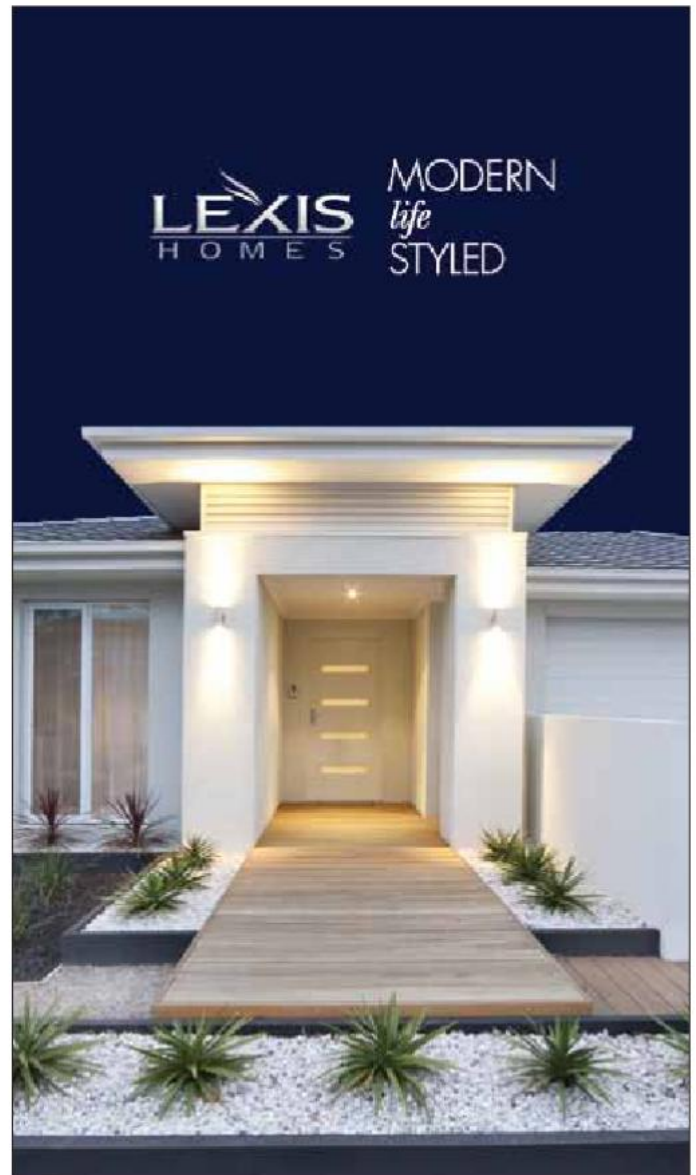
It's also possible to end up dating your home unnecessarily. Chantelle Butterfield advises against buying the bones of a room (the chairs, tables, couches, and so forth) solely because they're trendy. "They're

expensive and a pain to replace when you tire of them. You can tell when somebody built or renovated a house from the colour of the cabinets, countertops, and flooring. I want clients to go with something that won't be pegged to an era, something that they have always loved." Such things are often gifts, or hold sentimental value, something Butterfield calls the signature piece of a room. A signature piece is important. Says Butterfield, "They love it, it represents them, and they will never get rid of it!"

Final Thoughts

Remember, above all, the key to interior decoration is that the results should reflect you. Find what you treasure most in your rooms and what you want to get out of them. As Diane Weber says, "Clients know what they want and just need guidance to get there. This is their space and it needs to be a reflection of their tastes." 

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Yoga for Your Home: INTRODUCTION TO FENG SHUI

The study of personal space called feng shui (pronounced *fung shway*) emerged around the third century and has its roots in Chinese astronomy. Feng shui literally translates to “wind” (feng) and “water” (shui) and suggests that the earth contains energy, most often described as “chi” that is easily imbalanced. The goal of modern feng shui is to situate the home so that it is in harmony with its surroundings, allowing positive energy to be released and blocking negative energy. When chi is allowed to flow freely in the home, relationship harmony is enhanced, professional and personal goals are more easily achieved and overall quality of life is drastically improved. 



Jade plant symbolizing wealth



Rich purple drapes bring in an element of fire to balance the other elements of wood and earth in the living room

The flow of chi determines “yin” (feminine, restful, and peaceful energy) and “yang” (masculine, dynamic and active energy). Using feng shui in interior décor can be a powerful way to find balance between the slower, introverted energy of yin with the faster, extraverted energy of yang. The process of feng shui can be compared to acupuncture. The goal of acupuncture is to balance yin-yang force fields in the body and release the flow of chi, while the goal of feng shui is to align a space

with yin-yang force fields. It can also be likened to yoga and the seven chakras (energy points) that are stimulated by breathing. Introducing feng shui can literally breathe new life into your home as well as into your relationships and life ventures.

Jacqueline Nuesch, an organizing, staging and redesign consultant in Saskatoon, asserts that feng shui can be used to bring in new relationships, create innovative business opportunities, add harmony

in family relationships and generally assist in making life more peaceful and productive. She is dedicated to applying the principles of feng shui in her own living space as well as transferring her knowledge so others can benefit in multiple spheres of their lives.

Nuesch harnesses the energetic map of the ba gua to transform the space of homes. The ba gua, more commonly known as the magic square, contains nine different fundamental life areas or “guas”.

The nine life areas:

1. power/wealth/abundance
2. fame/future/reputation
3. love/marriage/partnerships
4. family/employees community
5. health/balance/well-being
6. creativity/children/legacy
7. knowledge/wisdom/harmony
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Jacqueline Nuesch and husband Christoph in their living room

The guas are represented in the home by the division of spaces into nine distinct areas, and included in the magic square are also eight directions, five elements (fire, earth, metal, water and wood) and a rainbow of colors that can be manipulated to affect the flow of chi in the home.

Another important element in feng shui is object positioning; Nuesch's bedroom provides a strong example of effective furniture positioning. The bed is arranged according to the Commanding Position Principle, which suggests different placement positions of furniture based on the needs of the couple. In this case, the bed faces east, which encourages ease of waking up and finding motivation in the

morning. A queen sized bed is used, as a king sized creates distance between partners. Creams and blacks are incorporated in bedding for enhancement of romance, while green sheets are used to promote healing. There is no mirror in the bedroom, so that the negative thoughts and emotions released during sleep do not become trapped in the room. There is also no storage under the bed, which would only clutter the mind and block the chi.

The living room reveals how the energy needs of diverse individuals can find balance in a shared space. Nuesch is strengthened by the element of earth, which allows energy to slow down and settle. To represent earth, the living

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room has many low and flat, solid, square shapes. Yellows and browns are used, and textures such as clay, ceramics, cotton, wool and brick are implemented throughout. In contrast, her husband is strengthened by wood, which heightens energy levels. To represent wood, tall, rectangular pillars are part of the room, and wood furnishings are used. Green and blue accessories are incorporated, and trees and plants are scattered throughout. The couple has very different needs that could conflict with one another. However, the relationship is balanced in the room by adding the element of fire. Triangle shapes are used, and enormous, lush purple drapes provide a dramatic window treatment as well as balance to the other elements.

Possibly the most interesting area of the house is a small nook underneath the staircase designated as the 'wealth area' of the home. A flourishing Jade plant, a metal jar containing coins from countries the couple hopes to travel to, and an original piece of artwork are all symbols for money and prosperity that are artfully arranged in the small space. A cozy chair encourages the homeowners to sit in the peaceful space, meditating and planning for the future.

The airy loft condominium where Nuesch and her husband live serves multiple purposes but is relatively free of clutter. This is because chi flows through all objects in a space and more objects means energy can get clogged. Clutter reduces the flow of chi and causes



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stagnation, which prevents opportunities, wealth and happiness from reaching the person desiring it. Removing clutter from your house will allow more opportunities for personal growth and make room for the things you desire.

Many homeowners resist adapting feng shui principles to their own home because they feel overwhelmed by the amount of information, sometimes contradictory, available. They also get easily frustrated after realizing that aspects of their house that are relatively permanent, such as the location of the kitchen or staircase, may be contradicting important feng shui principles. Nuesch believes any living situation can be adapted to increase positive energy flow, no matter how small or constrictive the space may be. The focus should not be on fear of 'breaking the rules' of feng shui, but rather making sure the space feels good and is aesthetically pleasing to you.

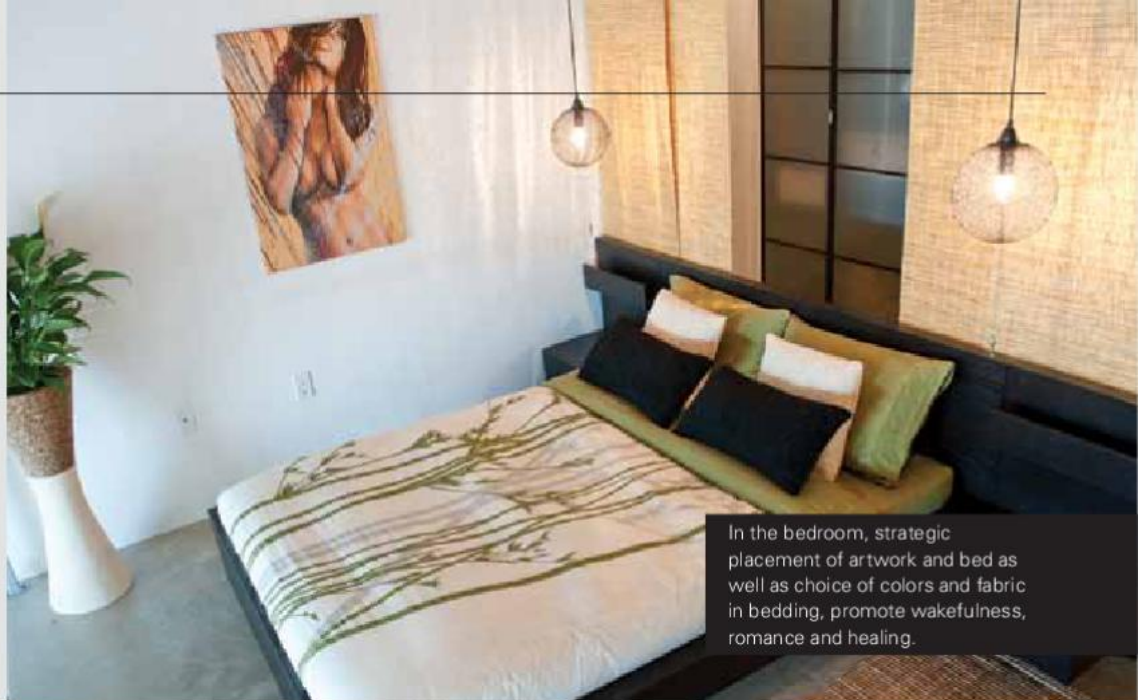
If you want to test the waters of feng shui, you can begin to improve the

movement of chi in your home without spending any money! Simple changes like correct placement of artwork, furniture or lighting and removal of unnecessary trinkets can do wonders for bringing in the life force you desire. Ensuring electronics, such as lamps, alarm clocks and computers, are not kept in close proximity, will make sure energy flow is not disrupted. Inexpensive accessories such as candles, crystals, mirrors, wind chimes and plants can dramatically alter the flow

of energy within the house as well.

If you prefer to learn from an expert, consultants such as Nuesch would be delighted to guide you through the process. She assists those wanting to learn more about the topic through teaching and consulting. Short courses such as *Definitive Decluttering* and *Fun Feng Shui* are an inexpensive way for homeowners to learn to practically apply feng shui concepts in their own home. In addition, she

In the bedroom, strategic placement of artwork and bed as well as choice of colors and fabric in bedding, promote wakefulness, romance and healing.



offers consulting services that tackle nearly every question a homeowner may have. Re-arrangement of furniture and art, assistance with organization and decluttering, advice on room renovations and effective staging techniques are all ways in which Nuesch can help homeowners use feng shui to enhance their quality of life. 

Visit Jacqueline Nuesch on facebook or www.sewchic.ca, or call her at 306.343.6120.



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Feng Shui – An ancient Chinese system focused on balancing energies in personal space to assure the health and good fortune of those living in it. Literal translation is *wind* (feng) and *water* (shui).

I-Ching – Also called *The Book of Changes*, an ancient Chinese book of divination which is the source of feng shui, as well as Confucian and Taoist philosophy.

Chi (pronounced chee) – energy flow; the vital life force. Literal translation is *breath, air or gas*.

Yin – feminine, restful, peaceful, introverted energy

Yang – masculine, dynamic, active, extroverted energy

Ba gua (pronounced bah gwah) – Also known as Octagon or Magic Square. An energetic map that applies the wisdom of the I-Ching to personal spaces.

Guas – Nine life areas that rooms or spaces are divided in based on the ba gua. Each gua is associated with one of the five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) as well as every direction and a rainbow of colours.

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THE THRILL OF THE HUNT

**Getting the goods
at well known
sources and hidden
treasure troves**

Karin Melberg Schwier

Shopping. Love it? Hate it? The latter view is what has given rise to the personal shopper industry. Whether you were born to shop or you just tolerate the process to get what you want and need, there's a way to construct the job so you're not wasting time, energy and money. You need a plan. There are scores of "home furnishings" retail outlets alone in Saskatoon, and the hunt for home décor pieces and unique *objets d'art* can range from obvious big box national companies to smaller local one-of-a-kind owner-operated funky shops. If you're searching for new pieces in places you might not have been to before in Saskatoon, here's some information we've compiled to get you started.

As with any good hunting expedition, the shotgun approach probably isn't the best way to head into the retail forest. Have a plan. Have a notebook. Make some notes. Here are a few tips to think about before heading out the door:

- Don't wait until you get to the store to realize you should have measured the window frame before you went out to get a Roman shade.
- Take a tape measure with you and make sure you're measuring in inches or centimetres, not both.
- Take a paint chip or swatch of fabric with you if you're hoping to complement something you already have. "I think it's sort of that kind of red" might not be the gauge to use.
- If you want a pulled together, cohesive look, try to avoid impulse buying unless you're certain that orange lacquered art deco lion's head is perfect over the fireplace.
- Make sure whatever you buy is returnable if it's just not right once you get it home. 

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Spring Issue of Saskatoon HOME magazine will be out in the beginning of March

Theme: Organization



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Survey says:

We checked in with a couple of personal shoppers, and a SH reader whose home we adore and simply asked, "Where do you start your home décor search to find good stuff?"

Top Pick: Home Sense

Chantelle Butterfield of Funktional Space:

"No matter what budget I'm given to work with, I still start at *Home Sense*. The prices and selection are fabulous!" She recommends that clients start their hunt by finding that first perfect piece, whether it's furniture, artwork, a bauble. Even a throw pillow or sculpture can be the inspiration to create a great space.

Barbara Shawcross of Realistic Redesign:

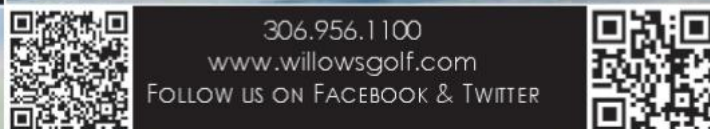
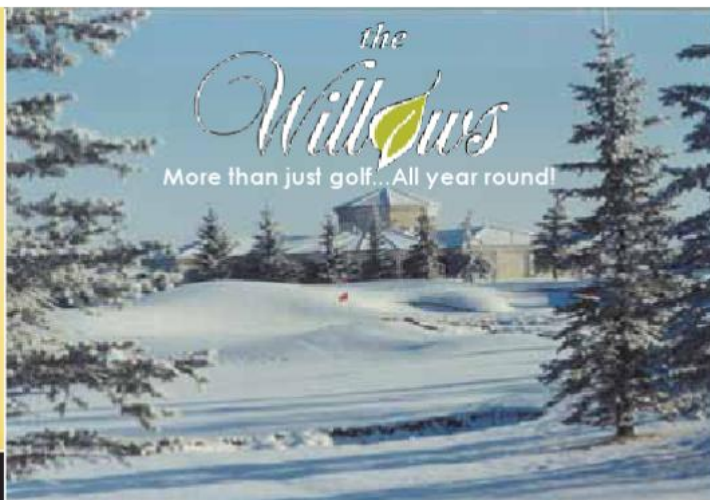
"I find that *Home Sense* is the best place in the city for reasonably priced and unique

home décor items." She reminds shoppers that *Winners* also offers that "thrill of exclusivity." And she advises, "If you see something perfect, buy it. It probably won't be there the next time around. If you get it home and it doesn't work, return it." She also recommends *Superstore*. "You would be surprised what great stuff they carry, especially small items perfect for a small space."

Saskatoon Home reader, **Carol Glazer**, agrees. "At *Home Sense*, I have good luck in finding things for our cabin or home; items that are inexpensive yet decent quality." She recommends an open mind about where décor treasures might be found. "A friend frequents *Liquidation World* and has found some great pieces of furniture over the years," she says. "Another found a number of pieces of furniture – TV/stereo stand, chair, leather footstool – at *Pier 1 Imports*."



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In preparation for your own hunt, for whatever item or materials you're after, do some research on these as well as other sources. Google is your friend. Ask your human friends and neighbours. If someone you know uses a great personal shopper or interior decorator, ask for a referral. If you admire someone's sense of style, ask where they shop. It's a jungle out

there, but we can be well armed and smart about when, how, what and why we buy.

Though by no means an exhaustive list, and we apologize in advance if we missed anyone, here are a few home décor places around the city you will want to investigate as you prepare for your next hunting trip:

LOCAL/REGIONAL

STEEL MET	1-1810 8th Street & 516 43rd Street	www.steelmet.net
ESTEEM FOR THE HOME DECOR AND GALLERY	106B-3929 8th Street	www.esteemforthehome.ca
FLO - ESSENCE PLUMBING, HEARTH AND DECOR LTD.	A-122 Venture Crescent	www.flo-essence.ca
CREEKSIDE COUNTRY HOME DECOR LTD.	709 Avenue P	
DETAILS AT HOME INC.	309-3907 8th Street	
FINDER'S KEEPER'S HOME DECOR	7-1702 Alexandra Avenue	
SEW + HOME INC.	B-601 1st Avenue	www.sewandhome.com
FRENZY DECOR	A3-3510 8th Street & 16-134 Primrose Drive	www.frenzy.ca
NEBULA LIGHTING & HOME DECOR	726 Broadway Avenue	
UP SHEEP CREEK	101-3120 8th Street	
CHARTER HOUSE INTERIORS	331 1st Avenue	www.charterhouseinteriors.com
MENDLE ART GALLERY GIFT SHOP	950 Spadina Crescent	www.mendel.ca
BLENDED JIVE	3-2210 Millar Avenue	www.blendedjive.ca
BLOSSOMS	111-1526 8th Street	www.blossomsflorists.com
PALLISER ROOMS	2125 Faithfull Avenue	
GARDEN ARCHITECTURE BY DESIGN	315 Avenue A	www.gardenarchitecture.ca
DUTCH GROWERS	685 Reid Road	www.dutchgrowers.ca
METRIC INTERIOR DESIGN	160 2nd Avenue	
DERVILIA DESIGNS LTD	465 1st Avenue	
TWISTED GOODS	220-3310 8th Street & 134 Primrose Drive	www.twistedgoods.ca
OAKSMITH INTERIORS	819 2nd Avenue	www.oaksmithinteriors.ca
WILLOW STUDIO INC.	140 2nd Avenue	www.willowstudio.ca
FURNITURE WORLD	831 2nd Avenue	www.furnitureworldsaskatoon.com
WESTERN CARPET ONE	610 Cynthia Street	www.westerncarpetonesaskatoon.com
CLAY STUDIO THREE	#3 - 527 Main Street	www.claystudiothree.org
MODERN COUNTRY INTERIORS	810 Broadway Ave	www.moderncountryinteriors.com

NATIONAL

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES	600 45th Street & 145 2nd Avenue	www.tenthousandvillages.ca
LEON'S FURNITURE	126 Cardinal Crescent	www.leons.ca
URBAN BARN	3142 Clarence Avenue	www.urbanbarn.com
HOME SENSE	3047 Clarence Avenue	www.homesense.ca
SUPERSTORE	2901-8th Street & 411 Confederation Drive	www.loblows.ca
LIQUIDATION WORLD	901 1st Avenue	www.lwstores.com
WALMART	225 Betts Avenue, 3035 Clarence Avenue & 1760 Preston Avenue	www.walmart.ca
INDIGO	3322 8th Street	www.chapter.indigo.ca
THE BRICK	2035 1st Avenue & 3047 Clarence Avenue	www.thebrick.com
JYSK LINEN 'N FURNITURE INC	12-3311 8th Street	www.jysk.ca
HOME OUTFITTERS	211-1723 Preston Avenue	www.homeoutfitters.com
PIER 1 IMPORTS	121-1715 Preston Avenue	www.pier1.ca



ROTATING TV



Jeff O'Brien |  Pete Lawrence Photography



Most people who want to watch TV in more than one room go out and buy another TV. The team at Tango Homes had a different idea. Why not simply spin the wall?

The first thing you notice walking into Tango's new "Ascension Home" in Saskatoon's Evergreen subdivision is that it's very tall. At its peak, the ceiling of the open concept main level is 18 feet high. The second thing you notice is the TV wall. Separating the main level into living and eating spaces, it rises like a white monolith, 10 feet high, 8 feet wide and a little over a foot thick, with a natural gas fireplace running the full width of the bottom and a wall-mounted flat-screen TV at the top. Eye-catching

It's also functional. The rotating section is big and heavy – four feet high by eight feet wide, sheeted with 1" finished plywood – and it has to rotate perfectly. Because it is supported from the bottom only, not top-and-bottom like other rotating tv stands, Tango used an industrial crane bearing as a pivot. It has a thrust rating of 60,000 foot-pounds and a torque rating of 9,000 foot-pounds – meaning that it's solid! "You could stand up there and dance if you wanted to," Chris told me, "but it would spin if you tried it." Quite easily, in fact. It is perfectly centered and exquisitely balanced, the action is smooth, silent, and precise. A finger tip's

WALL

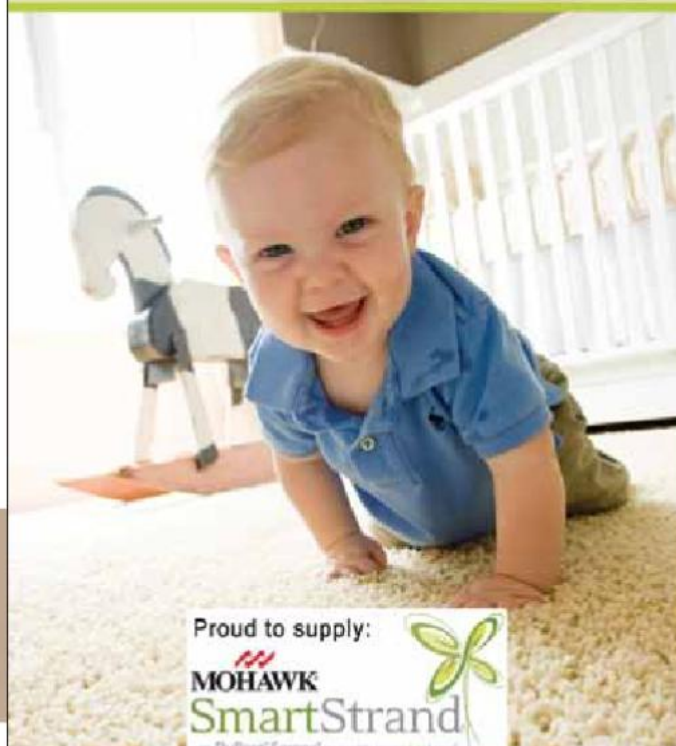
already, this feature becomes unique when you realize that its entire top half rotates.

Chris Fossenier is Tango's "President of Hammer and Nails" (his brother, Scott is "President of Money and Time" and Scott's wife, Erin Hutton, is "President of Inspiration and Design"). Chris designed and built the TV wall. Why? Because it was a cool idea. TVs that sit in an opening in a wall and can turn to face into one room or another – between a bedroom and an ensuite bathroom, for example – are not new. But sticking one in the middle of your living room on top a big honkin' pedestal like something out of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, that's pretty new. And yes, it's cool.

pressure is enough to guide it into position to catch the news while eating breakfast, then back again to watch movies that night. A custom-made mounting bracket allows the TV to be swung down to a lower viewing height, then swung effortlessly back up again.

One word of warning: really tall people might want to be a little cautious around the TV wall just in case someone on the other side decides to give it a good push when they're not looking! Other than that, the rotating TV wall, like the rest of the house, nicely adheres to Tango's design philosophy: to build homes that are unique, beautiful, and fun. 

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THE VALUE OF AN INTERIOR DESIGNER

Craig
Silliphant



In the days before widespread industrial processes, architecture tended to be less complicated, and thusly, so did interior design. However, as civilization developed, bringing with it more complex structures, a pursuit for a more effective use of interior space began. Though the tenets of modern design date back to the early Egyptian era, it was in the 19th century that interior design itself began to emerge as a professional service. There is a value in interior design that many people may not realize – once you have a space that is designed for you, a functional flow to your work or living space, your life becomes that much easier.

Lesson number one is to learn the important distinction between an interior designer and an interior decorator; a designer can design the space as well as decorate it, where a decorator doesn't utilize architectural and design knowledge. 



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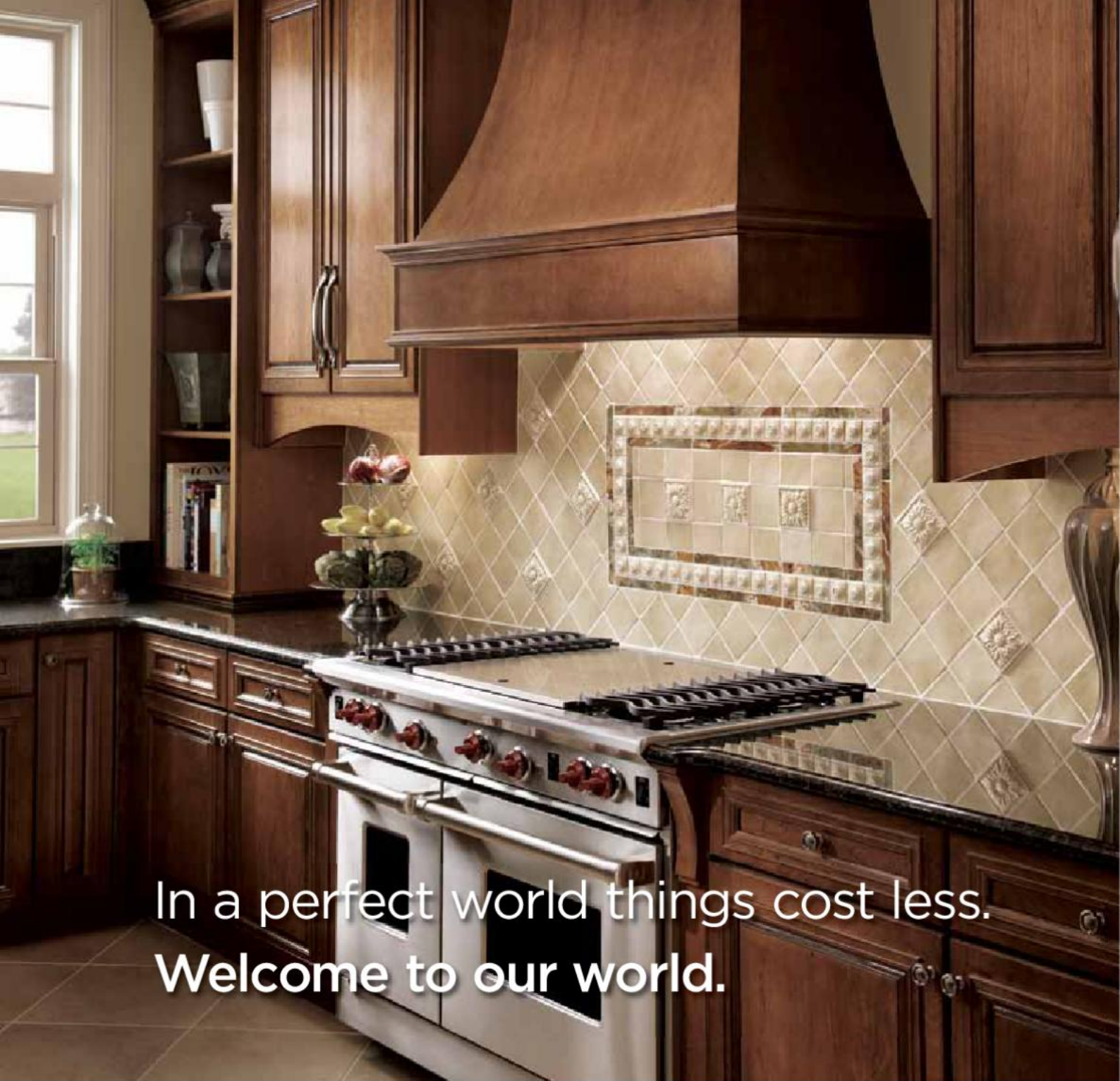
"We're doing floor plans," explains Interior Design Association of Saskatchewan (IDAS) accredited interior designer Adrienne Fedorowich, from Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants. "We're doing electrical designs, telling you where lights are going and how they're going to be switched together. What type of light it will be; a pot or a fixture? We're doing ceiling designs, like bulkheads or volume changes in a room. As well, we do detail work like fireplaces, islands, and millwork."

"We can basically finish and build the interior of the space," adds Cara DeLong from Metric Design. DeLong and Tamara Bowman are interior design consultants, which means they are not a part of IDAS, though they are accredited. "Walls, plumbing,

H-Vac, electrical; everything for the interior of a space. And we try to bring in both style and functionality, being involved in the details of how you live within a space."

Your day-to-day life can be made more comfortable, or easier to navigate, based on the space you live or work in. One of the principal ways a designer is of value to a client is in having the ability to interpret the specifics of a client's lifestyle to design a space that is as functional as possible.

"I'm not ever going to be living in their space," explains Fedorowich, "so I have to listen to what their needs are and what their style is. I try to go in there with a very personal approach, learning about their family, how many kids they have, their pets – because all of that, in essence, affects their space." 



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Hiring an interior designer or consultant may seem like an expense that only a diamond-toting *Real Housewife of Saskatoon* could afford, but it actually pays to use their services. Beyond the fact that a designer takes the time to understand your world, they can also give you many options for a space to work with your budget. Just knowing what products are available and how much they cost gives you a leg up on someone not using a designer. 

Adding splendour to your living space doesn't have to involve tearing down walls or adding a Gordon Ramsay-approved professional grade kitchen. You can freshen up your home by focusing on the small details; surprisingly simple ideas can change the way your house feels. Here are five quick and inexpensive ways to improve your space.

1) Start with the Kitchen

Since we do a lot of living in the kitchen, things tend to pile up in there. You can organize and enhance your working space and storage, giving the kitchen a cleaner look. Use storage bins or install wall shelves to store infrequently used items. Don't ignore corners or the backs of doors as storage areas. And while you're at it, refinish those old cabinets. Replace the hinges and hardware and give them a better finish or a decorative trim to breathe new life into your kitchen.

2) A Coat of Paint is an Obvious Bet

Whether you need to rethink your colour scheme to fit your taste, or you just think a room needs a different look, a few coats of paint will freshen things up.

3) Create Dedicated Spaces

Gigantic luxury homes have dedicated spaces – for example, a place where you only watch TV, or a room where the kids can do their homework. You might not have this kind of square footage to work with, but you can still create smaller dedicated spaces in each room. Instead of having workout tapes and yoga mats spread out all over the house, rearrange an extra bedroom into an exercise space. Purchase a rolling organizing cart to hold books and paper when the kids do homework in the kitchen. Organization is one of the inexpensive tricks you can harness to improve the look and functionality of your space.

4) Add Quality Fixtures

Instead of spending thousands of dollars on a total remodelling of your home, give it a more opulent atmosphere by adding attractive fixtures. Install some modern light switch covers, a cool light fixture, or even towel warmers for the bathroom. Small updates can have a major impact.

5) Focus on Furniture

You might not be able to afford a redesign of your living room, but you can add to it by picking up some high quality furniture. You don't have to pay through the nose; you can often find high quality pieces at great bargains. You can also add colour and spiff by adding pillows or fabrics that go with the furniture.



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"We spend so much time educating ourselves on the products that are out there," says Bowman. "Our role can be anything from a quick consultation to handling the entire project, walking [a client] through it, doing everything they don't feel comfortable doing, working with trades or whatever is required."

A designer can be of incredible value simply by being the person with the plan to stick to. Fedorowich has heard of projects without a designer where elements like closets were built in and subsequently ripped out several times during a single project because the plans were not locked down and the homeowner was not satisfied. Of course, this ends up costing the homeowner a lot more in labour and product cost.

"If there isn't a designer involved," says Fedorowich, "[the contractor] is just going off what the homeowner is telling them. The contractor thinks they understand and they go to execute the work, but then the homeowner is

like, 'No, that's not what I wanted.' It becomes 'He said. She said.' Whereas, if there's a design plan put into place, it is a list of every product that is being put into the space, where it's going, how it's being applied, where to purchase the product; everything is detailed and handed to the contractor so they have an exact plan to work off of. It pays for itself over and over again."

And of course, the most rewarding part for the designer is to see their clients cherish their newly claimed space, taking advantage of the comfort and functionality that has been created.

"Honestly, that is the best part of my job," says Fedorowich. "Seeing the project from beginning to end, and just seeing the reaction of the client, how happy and excited they are to have a space that reflects them and is beautiful at the same time. They usually can't say anything – they just sit there and smile." **H**



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DECEMBER

Average Daytime High: -9°C

Average Daytime Low: -18.8°C

December 1: Sunrise 8:52 a.m. Sunset 4:58 p.m.

December 15: Sunrise 9:09 a.m. Sunset 4:54 p.m.

What can you do in the winter months to make your yard more appealing? Lots, I say!

First off, start with the obvious: snow removal. Keep regularly used paths free of snow and ice. I don't need to advise anyone who is *from* the prairies to remove fallen snow within 24 hours or before it is trod upon. If you keep on top of it, the job is easier than if you let it pile up for days or

weeks. The look of a walk or drive cleaned right up to the edges says a lot about pride of yard ownership. It also plays up the beauty of your winter landscaping.

It is the month for Christmas! If you don't already have landscape lighting in place and would like to try it out, why not go for year-round appeal? Strands of low-voltage LED lights are available everywhere in December. Try featuring a



favourite tree or shrub with crystal white lights. If you prefer colour, it is amazing how just one shrub or tree lit up with a *single* colour of tiny lights can create a spectacle. I witnessed this en masse at the Enchanted Forest last year. If you like the look of it, keep it on a timer and adjust on and off settings as we go through all four seasons.

Christmas brings gift-giving, and what better, easier gift to give (or receive!) than gardening books. They range from practical planting advice to inspirational coffee table tomes. These are the books one wouldn't normally run out and buy for oneself,

but are such a treat to receive. Spend some time seeking out the titles or topics you'd love and then scatter a few hints here and there. I have someone on my list who is a "budding" rose enthusiast so I plan on gifting her a book of rose culture. Bring some sunshine into someone's cold winter!

Remember that December 21 is the shortest day of the year and will be soon behind us. The days will start to get longer! We won't have many days left until spring to do what we can to spruce up our yards so let's make the most of this season. 

STREET NAMES



CONN AVENUE

Conn Avenue in Brevoort Park remembers John James Conn (1863-1928), a young widower who left a 10-month-old daughter with his mother-in-law in Orangeville, Ontario to come to Saskatoon with the first large group of settlers in 1883. It took a month to travel by wagon from the railhead at Moose Jaw to Saskatoon. In May, he and James McGowan built a sod house on the riverbank just downstream from where the Broadway Bridge is now. It was the first house in the settlement. He remarried in 1886 and reunited his family. The wedding, the first in Saskatoon, was held at 6 a.m. as the travelling missionary who performed it was headed out of town. A Methodist,

Mr. Conn was well known for playing the violin at local dances.

Mr. and Mrs. Conn had three different homes in the Saskatoon area. The first was a large stone house near Sutherland. The second was on a homestead in the Smithville district west of Saskatoon. In 1913, the Conns moved again, this time into a large brick house in what is now the Fairhaven subdivision on 22nd Street West. The Conns moved to Vancouver in 1919. Mrs. Conn died there in 1922. Mr. Conn moved back to Saskatoon in the last months of his life.

From Saskatoon's History in Street Names by John Duerkop. Used with permission from Purish Publishing Ltd., Saskatoon.

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JANUARY

Average Daytime -11.6°C

Average Daytime Low: -21.6°C

January 1: Sunrise 9:15 a.m. Sunset 5:05 p.m.

January 15: Sunrise 9:08 a.m. Sunset 5:24 p.m.

The nice thing about January is we have plenty of indoor hours to reflect on our yards and enjoy the increasing amounts of sunshine that come our way.

I always use January and February to dream of and plan my 'yardening' projects. Those projects might be plant or landscape-related or they may be house-related.

Your house is the backdrop for your landscape, so use these less hectic days to assess what needs to be done in terms of renovating or freshening up.

Building construction takes place year-round, even in the dead of winter. If you

have a project such as door or window replacement or additions, well, "Git 'er done!" I need a porch roof built over a new concrete step. Instead of waiting for spring, I am having it constructed over our frosty months. That way I can save



my valuable spring/summer hours for more fun stuff.

At this point, your yard is mostly free of foliage, so take the opportunity to do some landscape assessing. Where could you use some winter interest such as the year round greenery of a Dwarf Mugho Pine or the stunning red bark of a Siberian Dogwood? Where might you plan a focal point if you haven't already? Would a statue or bench, strategically placed, be just the right thing to jazz up a view from inside?

Some of us are fortunate enough to be able to escape a long Saskatchewan cold snap with a trip someplace warmer. Use your trip to a different climate not only to enjoy and relax but also to explore landscape ideas or treatments. Think back to my thoughts on December for

lighting: tropical destinations use lighting year-round to enhance their landscapes – some subtle, some dramatic, always beautiful. We have plenty of dark winter hours to play with light, so take notes or pictures!

FEBRUARY

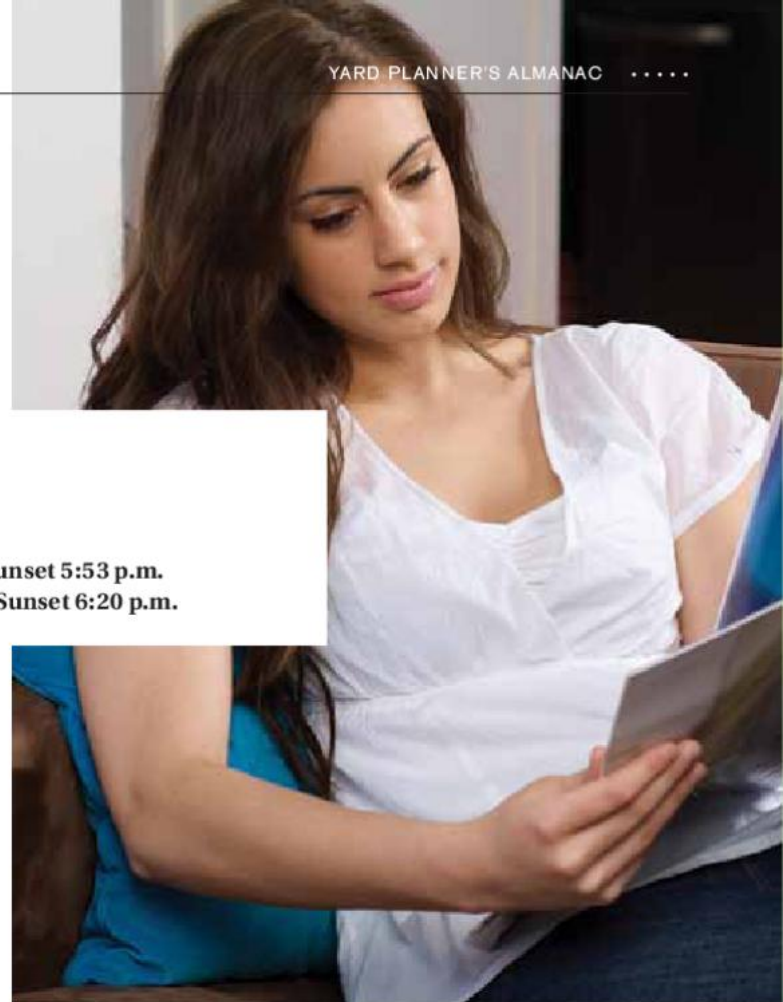
Average Daytime High: -7.5°C

Average Daytime Low: -17.4°C

February 1: Sunrise 8:47 a.m. Sunset 5:53 p.m.

February 15: Sunrise 8:22 a.m. Sunset 6:20 p.m.

In February it's relaxing to take the time to pore over endless pages or online screens of garden furniture, yard structures such as privacy panels, many, many varieties of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and bulbs. Now is when you should enjoy this pleasant pastime, not first thing



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in spring when you'd much rather be outside. Some of my favourites are Vesey's Seeds in PEI, McFayden Seeds from Manitoba and Lee Valley Tools (lots of stuff for us garden fans). The Internet, too, is a treasure trove of images and ideas at your fingertips.

If you have a project that needs the expertise of a landscape contractor, February is a great month

to start calling around for quotes. Landscapers quickly become booked up later in the spring. In February, they are not as rushed and have more time to discuss your ideas. Get quotes from at least three landscapers and go with the one you feel most comfortable; the lowest or highest price doesn't always guarantee the best work. If you don't know any contractors, ask friends,

family, or co-workers for referrals to companies they have used. If a company did a great job for your neighbour, chances are they'll do the same for you. You could also contact product suppliers for a list of contractors they'd suggest. For instance, call a local nursery to inquire who they would recommend to plant trees, or call a brick retailer if you need someone to build a retaining

wall or raised bed. Ask for references. Any reputable landscaper will have no problem supplying you with a few, and be sure to *call* those references.

As you can see, there is lots to plan and arrange during these 'short' months! Soon we'll be into March, and spring will be tempting us with longer days and warmer temps. 'Til then - revel in our matchless snowy vistas! 



Important Message: Call HOME!

HOME is written for readers like us – for people who don't have a \$2 million home in Saskatoon, and for those who do. What HOME readers all have in common is a desire to make the most of where they live. We can do that by decorating it, envisioning it, saving up for it, and – as in the case of our Street Names and Reflections features – learning more about it.

Consider this your invitation to be part of the HOME community. We invite you to contact us regarding:

- Your comments
- Story suggestions
- Submitting stories and/or photographs

(Yes. We pay for good content!)

We also hope you'll spread the word to your friends, relatives, neighbours – and to the businesses you like to patronize.

To contact us:

Saskatoon HOME
Amanda Soulodre
306-373-1833
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